

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 229461

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R 161742Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

UNCLAS STATE 229461

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, SP

SUBJECT: FIRST MEETING OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

1. DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE. WE PROPOSE THAT THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEET FOR TWO DAYS DURING EITHER THE WEEK OF NOV. 29 OR DEC. 6 IN WASHINGTON, DATES WHEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ, THE U.S. CO-CHAIRMAN, WOULD BE

AVAILABLE. THE WASHINGTON LOCATION WILL ALLOW FOR EXTENSIVE SPECIALIZED BACKUP FOR THE DISCUSSIONS FROM WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS OTHER CONCERNED AGENCIES.

2. IF THE EMBASSY IS AGREEABLE TO THE ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS, WE REQUEST THAT YOU APPROACH THE SPANISH AND OBTAIN AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC DATES. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE THE EMBASSY'S AND GOS INITIAL THOUGHTS ON AGENDA ITEMS AGENDA SUGGESTIONS, ESPECIALLY ITEMS OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE, WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IF THEY WERE RECEIVED IN TIME TO INCLUDE IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE OCT. 1 U.S.-SPANISH COUNCIL MEETING.

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PAGE 02 STATE 229461

FYI: TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, OF COURSE, WE HOPE TO KEEP

DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC BILATERAL TRADE ISSUES IN THE JOINT

ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, SINCE THE COMMITTEE, RATHER THAN THE
COUNCIL, HAS DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH MATTERS.

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